



U.S. Department of Justice
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NEWS RELEASE

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PARSONS, KANSAS, MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN CRACK COCAINE CASE

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Franchester Griffin**, 28, Parsons, Kansas, entered a guilty plea on June 28, 2004, before U.S. District Judge G. Thomas VanBebber to **one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute 50 grams or more (1.76 ounces or more) of crack cocaine.**

Melgren said that Griffin admitted at his plea that from January 1999 until September 2003 he, along with several others, were engaged in a conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine in Southeast Kansas and Southwest Missouri. Griffin admitted that he, along with others, would obtain larger quantities of cocaine and then manufacture crack cocaine or purchase large quantities of crack cocaine and sell it in smaller quantities. Griffin admitted that he distributed varying quantities of crack cocaine for this organization and that twice he distributed crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of a school in Parsons, Kansas. Griffin further admitted that beginning in February 2002 this organization utilized two residences on Washington Street in Parsons, Kansas, to store, package, and distribute crack cocaine. Griffin also admitted to a forfeiture allegation which requires him to forfeit all rights, interest, and ownership in proceeds from the drug trafficking activities.

Griffin faces a minimum of ten years and a maximum of life in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for September 13, 2004.

Co-defendants **Adam Davis**, 28, and **Joseph Riley**, 25, both of Parson, Kansas, entered guilty pleas on June 7, 2004.

Davis entered a plea to one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine. Davis faces a minimum of twenty years and a maximum of life in federal prison without parole. He is set for sentencing on August 23, 2004.

Riley entered a plea to one count of distributing more than 5 grams of crack cocaine. Riley faces a minimum of ten years and a maximum of life in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for August 30, 2004.

Co-defendant **Shannon Harris**, 29, Parsons, Kansas, entered a guilty plea on May 28, 2004, to one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine. Harris faces a minimum of twenty years and a maximum of life in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for August 16, 2004.

Co-defendants **Debra Loyd**, 36, **James Jackson**, 36, **David Robinson**, 51, and **Wendell Martin**, 23, all of Parsons, Kansas, and **Timothy Hans Ford**, 35, Coffeyville, Kansas, are each set for a jury trial on July 13, 2004, at 9:30 a.m.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, the Parsons Police Department, the Labette County Sheriff's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, the Coffeyville Police Department, the Winfield Police Department, the Joplin, Missouri Police Department, the Labette County Attorney's Office, and the Cowley County Attorney's Office in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Rask in this prosecution.